

**Declaration, Power of Attorney, and Petition**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOZING ABNORMALITY AND ESTIMATING DEGRADATION IN VALVE APPARATUS"

(check one)  is attached hereto.  was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**Prior Foreign Application(s)**

Patent Appln. No. 2000-324979 (Number)	Japan (Country)	25/10/2000 Day/month/year filed	Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.) (Filing date) (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint

my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Full name of sole or first inventor Haruo ITO Inventor's signature Haruo Ito Date 21/11/2001  
 Residence Tokyo, Japan Citizenship Japan  
 Post Office Address c/o The Japan Atomic Power Co., 6-1, Otemachi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan  
 Full name of second joint inventor, if any Susumu WATANABE Second Inventor's signature Susumu Watanabe Date 21/11/2001  
 Residence Hiratsuka-shi, Japan Citizenship Japan  
 Post Office Address c/o Nichigi Engineering Co., Ltd., 7, Kiriwara-cho, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

**Full name of third joint inventor** Tomoaki SUMITA  
Third inventor's signature Tomoaki Sumita Date 21/11/2001  
Residence Ayase-shi, Japan  
Citizenship Japan  
Post Office Address c/o Nichigi Engineering Co., Ltd., 7, Kiriwara-cho, Fujisawa-shi,  
Kanagawa-ken, Japan

**Full name of forth joint inventor** \_\_\_\_\_

Forth Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of fifth joint inventor** \_\_\_\_\_

Fifth Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

TOMOAKI SUMITA